



SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL 107, CANADA

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

PRESS RELEASE - FEBRUARY 11, 1969 - 6.00 p.m.

The Council wishes to go on record as objecting to public statements implying that a statement emanating from it on February 10 at 10.00 p.m. triggered the violent events of February 11.

We feel that the public should know the following facts:-

1. The S.G.W.A.U.T. Council was at no time party to the negotiations between Professor Anderson, the black students and the administration.
2. At no time was the S.G.W.A.U.T. Council approached by the black students to negotiate on their behalf or to respond to any proposals in connection with these negotiations.
3. Proposals by the black students were delivered to Dr. O'Brien by the University lawyer on February 10. These proposals were presented to Dr. O'Brien on behalf of the S.G.W.A.U.T. Council at a special meeting at 4.00 p.m. on the same day with a request for their reactions. The S.G.W.A.U.T. Council prepared a draft response which was delivered to Dr. O'Brien at 10.30 p.m. that same night. The draft was to be ratified at another special meeting on February 11 at 1.30 p.m., by which time events had outpaced the need for ratification.
The S.G.W.A.U.T. Council wishes to stress two points:-
 - a) The draft response was not addressed to the students but was merely for the benefit of Dr. O'Brien in making available to him the sentiment of a cross-section of faculty.
 - b) At no time was there an accord between the black students and the administration. Consequently, there was no agreement for so-called "hawk members" of the faculty association to break-up. The response of the faculty association stressed the possibility of "hope in the fact that students had offered concrete proposals for the formulation of a new committee" and went on to outline specific details of an alternative to one of the student proposals relating to a hearing committee in the matter of charges made against Professor Anderson.
4. The complaining students, not the S.G.W.A.U.T. set the one week time limit for the selection of a new committee. The S.G.W.A.U.T. Council simply proposed that all parties should agree in advance

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on a specific course of action if the members of the new committee could not be selected by the students' deadline.

5. The text of the draft statement was neither addressed to the students nor was it ever delivered to them.

From all this, it is clear that the attempt to present the S.G.W.A.U.T. Council statement as a trigger of Tuesday's violence is unjustifiable.



J.C. Callaghan
President-Elect
S.G.W.A.U.T.